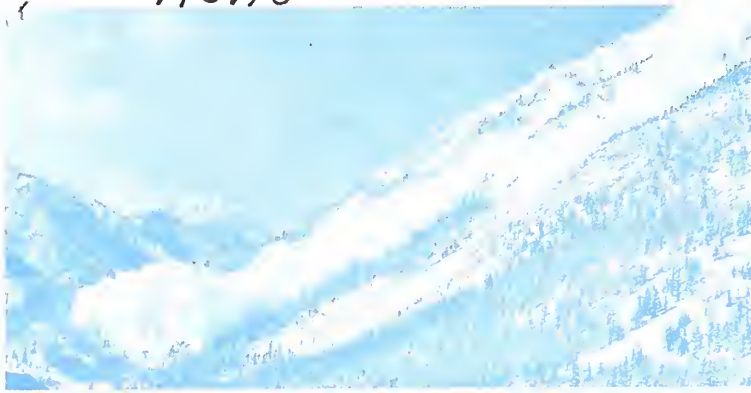


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Avalanche Notes

U.S. Forest Service
Westwide Avalanche Network

JANUARY 94

Weather

In the first third of January, the way was open for a Pacific storm track to bring snows to the Cascades of Washington and Oregon and inland to the Intermountain region. That door closed when a persistent ridge of high pressure set up along the West Coast and shunted storms to the north and south. The result was below-normal snows for all but a few mountain sites in the western U.S. in January.

In Alaska, Alyeska recorded 82% of normal snowfall for January. Most of the snow came between the 16th-27th, with 22" on the 25th. In Washington and Oregon, almost all of January's snow came on the 1st-11th. Crystal Mtn. recorded 48% of normal, and Stevens Pass got 60%. Mt. Rainier received 22" on the 1st and another 19" on the 5th, and finished the month with 66% of normal. Mt. Hood Meadows recorded 33" on the 5th-6th, and finished with 79%. In the Sierra of California, snowfall was even lighter: Mammoth Mtn. got 32% of normal; Squaw Valley, 35%; and Alpine Meadows, 40%.

In the Intermountain area, snowfalls showed extreme variability. In Utah, one of the most intense storms to ever hit the Wasatch began just after midnight on the 5th. When it ended about 48 hours later, Alta had received 58.5", and Snowbird, 50.5". An intense avalanche cycle resulted: Alta released 107 avalanches on the 6th, and Snowbird logged 212 on the 5th-7th. This storm boosted Alta to 137% of normal January snowfall, while Snowbird got 127%. In Montana, Big Sky and Bridger Bowl both received 83%, while farther north, Big Mountain got 112%. In Wyoming, Jackson Hole recorded 88%, and Teton Pass, 72%. Sun Valley, ID, found itself skipped over and managed only 35% of normal.

In Colorado, snows favored the northern portion of the mountains at the expense of the south. Copper Mtn. received 156% of normal; Loveland Basin, 150%; and Berthoud Pass, 140%. Other above-normal sites were Winter Park (town), 112%; A Basin, 110%; Beaver Creek, 108%; and Breckenridge, 101%. Elsewhere, Winter Park (ski area), Vail, and Telluride, all got 96%; Red Mountain Pass, 89%; Steamboat, 83%; Aspen Highlands, 59%; Wolf Creek, 52%; Sunlight, 48%; Purgatory, 40%; and Gothic, 32%.

Taos, NM reported 103% of normal January snowfall, and almost all of that came in a sustained storm on the 26th-31st.

Avalanche

On January 8, eight days after the avalanche that killed five snowmobilers near Bigfork, MT, another snowmobiler died in an avalanche near Cooke City, MT. The 36-year-old man triggered the avalanche while riding in the Fisher Creek drainage near Lulu Pass and Cooke City. His companions found no trace of the victim. A probe team located his body under 3-1/2 feet of snow the following day. His death brought the season total to six.

There were several other close calls reported in January:

January 2 near Breckenridge, CO: A snowmobiler was buried with only his fingertips out of the snow. Rescued by companions.

January 5 on Teton Pass, WY: A ski tourer was buried with only a ski pole exposed. Rescued by companions.

January 7 at Copper Mtn., CO: A lift skier was totally buried by an avalanche released by another skier above her. The patrol had probes on the scene within minutes, and the victim's husband struck her the second time he probed the snow. She was dug out from 2-1/2 feet of snow in 20 minutes. She made a full recovery.

January 13 on Berthoud Pass, CO: A ski tourer was totally buried except for one hand. Rescued by companion.

January 14 near Big Sky, MT: A ski tourer was buried to the neck.

January 19 on Berthoud Pass, CO: A back-country snowboarder was swept into a tree and broke his leg.

A total of 15 avalanche incidents was reported in January. These resulted in 17 people caught, 7 partly buried, 5 buried, 1 injured, and 1 killed. The winter's statistics through January read: 46 people caught, 14 partly buried, 15 buried, 2 injured, and 6 killed.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
WESTWIDE WEATHER AND AVALANCHE NETWORK
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

JANUARY 1994
SUMMARY OF WEATHER AND SNOW CONDITIONS

AREA	SNOWFALL				WATER EQUIVALENT								SNOW DEPTH				TEMPERATURE			WIND SPEED AND DIRECTION				
	MAX				MAX								D											
	TOTAL	IN	D		TOTAL	IN	D	NUMBER				D							AVG	6 HOUR		D		
	SNOW-	24	A		TOTAL	24	A	OF DAYS				A							FOR	PERIODS		FASTEST	A	
	FALL	AVG	HR.	T	WATER	HR.	T	GE	GE	GE	GE	MAX	T	MIN	AVG	MAX	MIN	AVG	MO.	GE	GE	HOUR	T	
IN.	DEN	IN.	E	IN.	IN.	E	.1	.2	.5	1.0	IN.	E	IN.	IN.	DEGREES F			MPH	15	20	MPH	DIR.	E	

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS

ARAPAHOE BASIN, COLO	61.0	--	11	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	64	27	39	54	20.2M	1.9M	11.0M	--	--	--	--	--	--
ASPEN HIGHLANDS, CO	19.0	.08	4	6	1.54	.33	6	5	4	0	0	0	0	40	30	29	32	21.0	8.5	14.8	9.3	17	6	30	320	2
BEAVER CREEK, COLO	44.3	.07	11	6	2.99	.80	6	9	5	1	0	0	0	54	17	43	48	23.6	7.5	15.5	7.7	7	0	22	280	2
BRECKENRIDGE, COLO	52.5	.06	13	6	3.04	.95	6	7	6	1	0	0	0	52	6	35	44	17.8M	5.6M	11.7M	15.1M	53M	30M	35	280	17
GOTHIC, COLO	17.0	.06	3	6	1.03	.22	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	31	26	27	28	28.3	.9	14.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
KEYSTONE, COLO	36.5	--	10	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	46	6	34	41	22.2	4.5	13.3	10.5	20	6	--	--	--
POWDERHORN, COLO	19.0	--	6	26	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	30	20	24	23.6M	8.8M	16.2M	4.8M	1M	0M	--	--	--
PURGATORY, COLO	13.2	.07	6	26	.90	.50	26	2	1	1	0	0	0	35	26	29	30	25.4	10.2	17.8	--	--	--	40	360	2
RED MTN PASS U.S.550	41.5	.08	9	6	3.45	.65	6	9	7	2	0	0	0	50	31	34	40	30.3	4.5	17.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
STEAMBOAT, COLORADO	49.5	.07	14	6	3.45	1.00	5	12	4	2	1	0	0	53	7	39	44	28.5M	13.2M	20.9M	--	--	--	--	--	--
SUNLIGHT, COLO	19.0	.07	6	6	1.39	.60	6	6	2	1	0	0	0	43	31	33	37	24.9	11.7	18.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
TAOS, NEW MEXICO	43.5	.05	15	26	1.96	.77	26	7	3	1	0	0	0	74	30	51	55	25.5	12.6	19.0	9.5	25	8	33	100	26
TELLURIDE, COLO	36.3	.07	8	6	2.46	.55	26	6	4	2	0	0	0	45	27	30	35	21.6	9.5	15.5	7.1M	7M	1M	26	220	5
VAIL, COLO	58.2	.06	16	6	3.47	.95	6	10	6	2	0	0	0	57	7	38	48	22.0	8.3	15.1	7.2	1	0	23	250	1
WOLF CREEK, COLO	32.1	.05	12	26	1.66	.70	26	5	3	1	0	0	0	69	27	48	52	30.7	8.8	19.8	15.4	66	35	64	360	2

INTERMOUNTAIN

ALTA, UTAH	110.5	.06	33	6	6.80	1.80	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	82	6	39	62	31.0	11.0	21.0	10.5	20	6	30	285	1
BIG SKY, MONT	39.0	--	5	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	42	16	32	37	25.4	14.5	19.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
BIG MOUNTAIN, MONT	77.5	--	11	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	74	14	54	69	27.5	20.0	23.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
BRIDGER BOWL, MONT	47.5	.07	11	16	3.45	.80	16	12	6	1	0	0	0	76	16	49	55	30.2	18.5	24.4	13.1	63	18	32	250	31
GRAND TARGHEE, WYO	56.5	--	13	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	55	9	33	43	29.6	13.7	21.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
SCHWEITZER BASIN, ID	49.5	--	9	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	69	23	58	64	29.4	21.7	25.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
SNOWBIRD, UTAH	96.5	.06	26	6	6.05	1.46	7	11	9	4	2	0	0	67	7	28	49	31.1	17.6	24.4	24.7M	96M	76M	--	--	--
TETON PASS, WYO 22	42.0	.09	11	11	3.81	.89	11	9	8	3	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	23.0	13.4	18.2	--	--	--	--	--	--

WEST COAST

ALPINE MEADOWS, CAL	27.5	.13	9	25	4.02	1.71	5	5	5	3	2	0	0	45	26	30	34	39.1	26.2	32.6	25.4	105	93	60	240	8
ALYESKA, ALASKA	75.6	.09	22	25	7.11	2.30	25	11	9	5	2	0	0	114	27	81	91	30.0	22.8	26.4	4.4	0	0	14	150	21
CRYSTAL MTN 2, WASH	44.9	.08	14	5	5.43	1.01	4	13	10	3	1	0	0	61	5	46	53	33.5	25.0	29.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
CRYSTAL MTN 1, WASH	30.9	.07	11	5	5.02	1.01	4	12	6	5	1	0	0	42	11	33	37	38.5	27.3	32.9	15.9M	69M	37M	45	200	8
EAGLECREST, ALASKA	70.1	.08	15	17	7.58	1.90	17	14	10	6	1	0	0	34	21	3	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
HEAVENLY VALLEY, CAL	13.5	--	5	27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	28	27	20	22	41.0	18.9	30.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
JUNE MOUNTAIN, CALIF	19.0	.08	6	27	1.46	.35	24	8	4	0	0	0	0	24	28	11	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
MAMMOTH MTN, CALIF	18.1	--	5	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13	29	6	8	36.1M	18.7M	27.4M	--	--	--	--	--	--
MT. RAINIER PARADISE	89.5	.11	22	1	14.35	2.36	5	19	17	12	4	0	0	101	11	74	87	35.9	25.5	30.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
MT. HOOD MDWS, ORE.	68.5	.14	21	5	16.65	3.95	3	14	12	10	6	0	0	78	11	48	65	42.4	28.8	35.6	17.1	75	54	47	290	9
SNOQUALMIE PASS I-90	57.5	.22	12	1	18.88	2.36	6	14	14	12	11	0	0	66	11	50	55	34.4	29.5	31.9	7.9M	17M	5M	--	--	--
STEVENS PASS, WASH	54.0	.09	13	1	7.35	1.05	5	17	13	5	0	0	0	63	11	47	52	35.2	29.6	32.4	8.7M	16M	6M	--	--	--

-- DATA INCOMPLETE OR MISSING

M-ONE OR MORE DAYS OF RECORD MISSING-IF AVERAGE VALUE IS ENTERED, LESS THAN 10 DAYS RECORD IS MISSING

IF M IS ENTERED IN WIND SPEED COLUMN, LESS THAN 37 6-HOUR PERIODS ARE MISSING

GE--GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
WESTWIDE WEATHER AND AVALANCHE NETWORK
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

JANUARY 1994
AVALANCHE SUMMARY

AREA	TOTAL	TOTAL	DATES OF				NUMBER OF DAYS WITH		TYPE OF AVALANCHE							FRACTURE LINE HEIGHTS IN FEET			VERTICAL DESCENT IN FEET				AVALS ACROSS MAJOR ACCESS ROADS NO.
	A	A	F	L	MAX	IN	D	A	S	R	N	A	H	S	L	O	O	O	O	O			
	V	V																					
	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		
	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		
S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH NO.	THIS WINTER NO.		
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS																							
ASPEN HIGHLANDS, COL	15	18	7	27	7	27	7	0	9	6	0	6	0	9	3	2	0	9	4	1	1000	0	
GOthic, COLO	20	48	6	30	5	20	7	0	0	20	0	2	0	18	2	0	0	20	18	5	1800	0	
LOVELAND BASIN, COLO	22	22	2	18	10	6	5	0	17	5	6	16	0	0	16	3	0	19	0	0	440	0	
MONARCH, COLORADO	8	8	2	24	3	8	4	0	4	4	0	8	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	300	0	
TAOS, NEW MEXICO	14	41	26	31	10	26	4	0	13	1	0	14	0	0	6	0	0	14	1	0	500	0	
TELLURIDE, COLO	23	67	6	28	7	26	9	0	23	0	1	21	0	1	2	0	0	10	0	0	400	0	
VAIL, COLO	6	13	2	17	2	6	5	0	6	0	2	4	0	0	6	2	0	5	1	0	800	0	
WOLF CREEK, COLO	2	50	27	30	1	30+	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	175	0	
INTERMOUNTAIN																							
ALTA, UTAH	271	502	2	30	107	6	16	0	260	11	41	230			83	21	2	134	57	26	2600	6	
BIG SKY, MONT	85	85	2	30	14	10	14	0	83	2	24	61	0	0	25	5	1	79	49	5	1200	0	
BIG MOUNTAIN, MONT	24	54	2	8	9	7	5	0	24	0	0	24	0	0	1	0	0	12	0	0	460	0	
BRIDGER BOWL, MONT	88	243	1	30	26	16	15	0	88	0	2	85	0	1	8	0	0	86	67	16	1300	0	
SNOWBIRD, UTAH	352	558																					
TETON PASS, WYO 22	1	1	6	6	1	6	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1400	1	
WEST COAST																							
ALPINE MEADOWS, CAL	77	185	5	27	25	25	5	0	70	7	0	77	0	0	0	0	0	75	3	0	500	0	
ALYESKA, ALASKA	54	119	11	31	23	25	12	0	39	15	1	51	1	1	38	4	2	52	44	25	2100+	0	
CRYSTAL MTN, WASH	108	122	1	11	74	1	6	0	98	10	0	104	2	2	11	0	0	101	53	1	1650	0	
KIRKWOOD MDWS, CAL	37	37	5	27	13	25+	6	0	36	1	1	36	0	0	12	0	0	23	2	0	600	0	
MT. HOOD MEADOWS	60	87	1	11	17	11+	9	0	60	0	6	54	0	0	11	0	0	27	10	1	1000	0	
STEVENS PASS, WASH	154	282	1	13	69	1	7	0	139	15	0	130	0	24	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
STEVENS PASS U.S. 2	6	15	6	14	4	7	3	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	1	1	6	6	6	1500	0	

-- = DATA INCOMPLETE OR MISSING
GE = GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO
+ = ALSO OCCURRED ON OTHER DATES